Production of jute in Bihar

†1009. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15 to 20 lakh quintal jute is produced in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether Government and cooperative institutes purchase their total produce; and

(c) if not, whether it is a fact that farmers are compelled to sell jute at lower rates to middlemen and business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that around 15 to 20 lakh quintal of raw jute is produced in Bihar which comes to around 10 to 11 per cent of the total production in the country. The production of raw jute in Bihar during the previous three years have been 1620,000 quintals in 2003-04, 1260,000 quintals in 2004-05 and 1656,000 quintals in 2005-06.

(b) Jute Corporation of India, a CPSE is the designated Nodal Agency for conducting Market Support Price (MSP) Operation in raw jute in the country. The JCI conducts MSP Operation through its 171 regular purchase centres. It also involves the State apex co-operative societies and village level societies as its agents in procurement of raw jute. The following table indicates the quantity of raw jute procured from different districts in Bihar during the last three years:—

Districts	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	JCI	Co-op	JCI	Co-op	JCI	Co-op
Purnea	36996	18797	10469	2364	5482	0
Araria	26818	15101	2080	1167	350	0
Kishanganj	85713	8073	6322	752	8838	0
Katihar	38812	5549	10027	589	2975	0
Supaul	57663	21699	6150	3739	1561	0
Madhapura	32514	31119	2645	4498	758	0
TOTAL :	278,506	100338	37693	13109	19964	0
JCI+Co-op	378844		50802		19964	

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

During 2004-05 and 2005-06 the raw jute crop was perceived to be short and the price of raw jute ruled above minimum support price. As such JCI and Cooperatives could purchase very little quantity. The farmers have received price above MSP for the market.

(c) No case of any distress sale has been reported in Bihar. The JCI is committed to purchase whatever quantity of raw jute is offered by farmers to it at (MSP). MSP is being declared every year and the same has been given wide publicity for information to all concerned including jute farmers.

Handloom clusters in Tamil Nadu

1010. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up handloom clusters in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the clusters will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir, the Government of India does not propose to establish any cluster in Tamil Nadu. Rather the Government of India, under the Integrated handloom Cluster Development Scheme, proposes to develop 20 handloom clusters throughout the country covering over 5000 looms under each cluster at a cost of Rs. 2.00 crore per cluster. Three such existing clusters at Tiruvannamalai, Trichy and Kurinjipadi in the State of Tamil Nadu have already been identified and the Implementing Agencies for these clusters have commenced the work in the field.

Apparel training and design centres in Tamil Nadu

1011. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is proposed to set up Apparel Training and Design Centres at Madurai, Coimbatore and Salem in Tamil Nadu considering huge textile industry presence there;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) is running an Apparel Training and Design Centre (ATDC) at Avinashi